

I am sensitive to the austere budget environment, but believe that less than full funding will make it virtually impossible to conduct a viable worldwide IMET program responsive to the changing international situation. Our modest, but essential, \$39.8M request will request will reach more than 3,500 personnel from over 100 countries. It will enhance friends and allies' defense professionalism, strengthen their own training capabilities, and give us access and influence. The IMET program directly supports the United States' National Security and National Military Strategies. Our regional Commanders in Chief forcefully and repeatedly emphasize the program's centrality to the success of their regional security strategies.

While the FY96 request may appear to be a significant expansion of the program, in reality it would simply return IMET closer to traditional funding levels. From FY88 through FY93, annual IMET appropriations ranged from \$47.4M to \$42.5M. Then, in FY94, funding was precipitously cut in half, to \$21.25M, with only a modest recovery to \$25.5M in FY95.

Implementing the IMET program within dramatically lower funding levels of the past two years has been very difficult. Since FY91, our overriding national interest in the promotion and expansion of democracy around the world has required us to initiate IMET programs with 28 new and emerging democracies, primarily in Central Europe and the Newly Independent States. FY94-95 funding levels compelled us to curtail these new programs' growth, eliminate some traditional programs, and slash many more, particularly in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Moreover, inflation and a smaller pool of U.S. students have significantly increased training costs for foreign students, reducing each IMET dollar's purchasing power. For example, the Army War College now costs \$14,498 per student, vice \$11,429 in FY93.

While we seek to return close to, though still below, the FY93 funding level, it is important to understand we are not simply returning to the earlier program. Important, positive changes have been made to the program's content and focus over the past two years. IMET has been tightly focused on professional military education and Expanded IMET (E-IMET). High cost education, such as pilot training, has been eliminated. The technical training that is still supported is focused on "training the trainer" so that countries can assume more responsibility for their own equipment-oriented instruction. Proposed FY96 funding for new democracies is 160 percent higher than in FY93, while funding for traditional programs is 25 percent less.

If we are to build upon our investments in the new and emerging democracies, maintain support for countries important to Middle East peace, and restore some of the funding for other traditional programs important to our regional strategies, the FY96 IMET request needs to be fully funded. For the Defense Department, IMET is critically important. I would be pleased to discuss these issues with you, and greatly appreciate your support for this important program.

Sincerely yours,

*Walter B. Slocombe.*

HONORING DR. ED WAYBURN

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 1995*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Edgar Wayburn and to congratulate him on receiving the 1995 Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism. In his illustrious career, Ed has achieved distinction as a physician, environmentalist, and humanitarian. He is a worthy recipient of this award and I join his friends and colleagues in congratulating him.

Many people have described Ed as the present day incarnation of John Muir. This is not only an accurate description, but one which complements the legacy of Mr. Muir himself. During his 50 years of service with the Sierra Club, Ed was responsible for over 103 million acres of public lands in the United States being designated as protected areas. These lands included portions of the Redwood National Park, the Golden Gate/Point Reyes region, and vast tracts in Alaska. Their protected status is a tribute to Ed's tireless energy and his lifetime commitment to the preservation of our Nation's wild lands.

On behalf of the millions of Americans who seek respite in these natural sanctuaries, I salute you Ed and wish you and Peggy the best in the years to come.

### TRIBUTE TO MEDICAL GROUP MISSIONS

### HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 1995*

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, recently a physician from my district, Dr. Neil Wilson of Orinda, traveled to Ecuador for 2 weeks to help Indians in three Andean villages. He went with a group called Medical Group Missions, a nondenominational association designed to provide assistance to needy people worldwide.

The trip was put together by nurse Diana Bennett, with whom Dr. Wilson had served on the staff of Mt. Diablo Hospital.

As related by Dorothy Bowen in an article in "The Contra Costa Sun," Dr. Wilson in 1993 journeyed to Zimbabwe, treating AIDS patients, living in cement block houses and working with serious ill patients.

This year he traveled to South America. In describing his trip to Ecuador, Dr. Wilson said:

We represent Jesus and His teaching and also our country \* \* \*. The greatest gift was from them to us. They are beautiful people who have the courage to carry on day after day. It's hard to complain about my life after I get home.

It's an honor for me to recognize Dr. Wilson, Diana Bennett and the team that traveled to Ecuador. The work of these outstanding Californians reminds each of us the value of selfless service. I am pleased to recognize them today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

KILDEE HONORS VFW POST NO.

4087

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 1995*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4087. VFW Post No. 4087 celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 29, 1995 at their beautiful facility that is located in my district in Davison, MI.

VFW Post No. 4087 boasts one of the largest memberships in the State of Michigan, with over 1300 members. The officers and members of VFW Post No. 4087 are known throughout the community for their charitable work on behalf of children. VFW Post No. 4087 is a major supporter of the VFW National Home, which has provided care to the children and grandchildren of America's veterans since 1925. VFW Post No. 4087 has also been an active supporter of Little League Baseball in our community, helping to provide equipment and uniforms so that young people will have the opportunity to play baseball. VFW Post No. 4087 has also been an energetic supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, playing host to a local Boy Scout troop.

VFW Post No. 4087 has played a key role in providing much needed medical equipment to residents of the community. The generosity of the members of Post No. 4087 have assured wheelchairs and hospital beds for those who might have otherwise gone without these essential items. Members of VFW Post No. 4087 frequently contribute their time, and travel many miles, to the nearest Veterans Hospital. The visits have helped to cheer and comfort these veterans who are sick and infirm. Many times through the years the Color Guards and the Firing Squad of Post No. 4087 have participated in events honoring our country. Their reputation precedes them. This has resulted in many invitations to attend parades and various functions in other communities, adding a touch of class and dignity to whatever event they might attend.

Mr. Speaker, VFW Post No. 4087 has provided a dignified home to the bronze plaques that honor those in our area who served in World War II. The plaques were formerly housed in the Industrial Mutual Association Auditorium but needed new home when that auditorium was discontinued. I am particularly pleased to read on these plaques the name of my brother, Kenneth Kildee, who served our country in both World War II and the Korean War.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today, asking you and my fellow Members of Congress to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4087. For 50 years they have stood firmly to their commitment to this Nation. Their dedication to protecting and promoting the enhancement of the human dignity of all Americans serves as inspiration to the entire community.